

Minutes of Special and Regular Meeting of January 27, 2015

STUDY SESSION 6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Council Present: Wright, Reed, Lieberman (arr. 6:45 p.m.), Stone, Braunstein

Council Absent: None

STUDY SESSION

Technology Update

Information Technology Director Mitchell provided an update of the City's technology programs, including new software implementation.

GIS Coordinator Eggers described the City's website updates. He provided information on the use of social media and citizen engagement software by various city departments. He noted the pending launch of a "My Belmont" application for service request submission, notifications, and on-line business license payments.

(At this time, being 6:45 p.m., Councilmember Lieberman arrived on the dais.)

Information Technology Director Mitchell noted that staff was continuing to work on City Council meeting interface software issues, as well as preparing for full paperless agenda packets.

Councilmember Stone expressed support for new interactive software tools and noted the need for Councilmembers to have equipment available on the dais. Information Technology Director Mitchell explained that the City will be budgeting soon for this item.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 6:58 P.M.

**Terri Cook
City Clerk**

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER 7:05 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Council Present: Wright, Reed, Lieberman, Stone, Braunstein

Council Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Fire Chief Mike Keefe

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Perry Kennan, Belmont resident, expressed the need to improve communications with the citizens. He recommended that all emails regarding agenda topics be included on the website as a way to

provide additional transparency.

COUNCILMEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Wright commented regarding the Carlmont High School basketball games.

Councilmember Lieberman described an incident wherein his son was a witness to an accident.

Councilmember Stone suggested that the resident who found a bag of cash and turned it into the Police Department should be recognized for his efforts.

Mayor Braunstein noted that commission recruitment was under way. He also announced the upcoming Friends of Millard Fillmore annual Trivia Hunt.

COUNCIL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS REGARDING CONSENT CALENDAR

Staff responded to Council questions on items on the Consent agenda.

ITEMS APPROVED ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Waive further reading of proposed ordinances

Monthly Financial Reports

Motion approving FY 2016 Budget Calendar.

Resolution 2015-003 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Service Agreement Amendment No. 1 with Keyser Marston Associates (KMA) for an amount not to exceed \$15,000.

Resolution 2015-004 authorizing the payment of the annual maintenance of the City's budget software, BI360, in the initial amount of \$6,683.00.

Resolution 2015-005 authorizing the City Manager to procure network equipment and licenses from Xteles Corporation for an amount not to exceed \$12,151

Adoption of Boards & Commission Ordinance 2015-1084

Resolution 2015-006 Authorizing Public Improvement Agreement for Use of Bond Proceeds

Resolution 2015-007 accepting conveyance of governmental use property from the Successor Agency

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Stone, seconded by Councilmember Reed, the Consent agenda was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Modification to City Councilmember Benefits

Human Resources Director Dino stated that the goal is to modify the City Council's benefit package by de-coupling it from the bargaining units.

City Attorney Rennie outlined the two-tier system now in place with regard to the connection of the City Council's benefits with the MMCEA bargaining group. He pointed out that only the City Council can set its benefits. He described the conflict of interest issue with the City Council regarding this matter, and explained the rule of necessity wherein City Council names would need to be drawn to succeed a quorum in order to take action on this matter. He noted that the City Clerk would draw names of Councilmembers who will participate on this item.

RECESS: 8:10 P.M.
RECONVENE: 8:15 P.M.

City Clerk Cook noted that during the recess, she drew the names of Councilmembers Reed, Stone and Wright as participants in this matter.

Councilmember Lieberman and Mayor Braunstein stepped off the dais and out of the room.

Human Resources Director Dino provided background on providing health and welfare benefits to the City Council in 1997. She pointed out that the City Council set a goal in 2014 to de-link its benefits from MMCEA. She clarified that no new benefits would result if the resolution is passed.

In response to Councilmember Reed, Human Resources Director Dino clarified that a new process to set a benefits package would be adopted by a future ordinance.

Perry Kennan, Belmont resident, expressed support for de-linking the Council's benefits. He requested answers to questions he posed in an email. He stated that the staff report is not clear.

Gordon Seely, Belmont resident, stated that city council service is part time and largely volunteer, and lifetime benefits should not apply. He suggested that the monthly compensation be reviewed.

Robert Durkee, Belmont resident, stated that the city council should be compensated but not extravagantly.

Councilmember Stone clarified that he is taking nothing more than the stipend, regardless of what he is entitled to. He described the current two tiered system, and noted that he supported delinking even prior to his election. He noted that he is open to considering other options regarding compensation.

Councilmember Wright pointed out that this action does not change or add benefits. She explained that she has opted out of benefits. She supports delinking the benefits as proposed.

Councilmember Reed expressed support for the resolution.

City Attorney Rennie clarified that the Attorney General has opined that the City Council cannot change benefits for current members.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Stone, seconded by Councilmember Wright, Resolution 2015-008 modifying the benefit package for current city councilmembers by delinking the health and welfare benefits from the Mid-Management/Confidential Employees Association (MMCEA) was unanimously approved (3-0, Lieberman/Braunstein recused).

RECESS: 8:40 P.M.
RECONVENE: 8:45 P.M.

Councilmember Lieberman and Mayor Braunstein returned to the dais.

Human Resources Director Dino outlined a 1997 City Council resolution that provided for excess retiree health benefits for newly elected council members. She noted that the proposal is to eliminate this benefit for those elected following adoption of the new resolution.

Councilmember Lieberman pointed out that previous city councils were not willing to discuss council benefits.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Stone, seconded by Councilmember Wright, Resolution 2015-009 eliminating excess retiree health benefits for newly elected council members was unanimously approved.

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, AND COUNCIL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ASSIGNMENT UPDATES, AND STAFF ITEMS

Verbal report from Councilmembers on Intergovernmental (IGR) and Subcommittee Assignments

Councilmembers provided brief updates of intergovernmental meetings they attended.

Verbal report from City Manager

City Manager Scoles made note of the infrastructure survey, the General Plan workshop, and pointed out that recruitment is under way for a Belmont Poet Laureate.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Perry Kennan, Belmont resident, stated that his request to receive the infrastructure telephone survey questions has been denied and he has appealed this decision to the city manager.

ADJOURNMENT at this time being 9:05 P.M.

**Terri Cook
City Clerk**

Meeting audio-recorded and videotaped.